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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS, N.V. [NL/NL]**; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

(71) Applicant (for AE only): **U.S. PHILIPS CORPORATION [US/US]**; 1251 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **VIGNOLI, Fabio**

[NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL). PAUWS, Steffen, Clarence [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

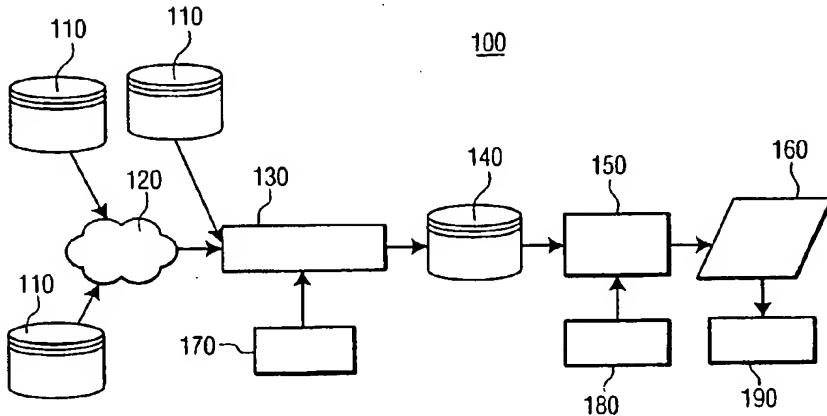
(74) Common Representative: **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS, N.V.**; Intellectual Property & Standards, c/o THORNE, Gregory L., P.O. Box 3001, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001 (US).

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(54) Title: HIERARCHICAL PLAYLIST GENERATOR



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(57) Abstract: A playlist generator partitions the playlist generation process into a multi-stage, hierarchical process. At an example highest hierarchical level, the user's "general" preferences are applied. These general preferences reflect the user's "tastes", and are relatively constant. At a lower level of the hierarchy, the user's "specific" preferences are applied. These specific preferences reflect the dynamic time-dependent or event-dependent aspects of a user's entertainment preferences. The high-level preferences generate a subset of material from the global collection of material, and the lower-level preferences are applied to this subset of material as the user's immediate preferences change. By segregating the playlist generation process hierarchically, efficiency is gained by applying immediate preference changes to a smaller subset of material, and coherency is improved by limiting the subsequent selection processes to a given subset of the material.



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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

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